

December 12, 2003

Surface Transportation Board: Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 34075
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: Phillis Johnson Ball
Section of Environmental Analysis
Environmental Filing



At the public meeting held at the North Sevier High School Gym on October 22, 2003, I left with a sinking feeling that the powers that be had already won the approval of your staff, I hope I was wrong.

I happen to live within ½ mile of where these two routes would travel and I can tell you I'm sure concerned. I could get used to the railroad, but I'm not sure I could get used to the idea that there was a better more practical solution and no one would look at it from a long term environmental stand.

We who live in the county have to depend on our wells for water, for our livestock and homes. The proposed route would put more than 100 train cars carrying 1000's of tons over the terrain adjacent to these wells. No one can say the impact of coal dust and the shaking of the ground will not affect them. Average cost of drilling a well in our area runs about \$15,000, or about ½ of most households yearly income.

Next consider the farm ground effected. Each year thousands of acres of good quality farm ground are either paved or used for subdivisions. Where will we grow our crops if this practice continues? I'm sure this concerns you and your coworkers.

Next consider the fact that they would put the railroad across and along the bus routes for our school kids. We read about rail and bus tragedies far too often. Who is thinking of the safety issues these two routes would cause.

I'm still amazed at the fact that the Six County Association of Governments were not more open to the route that the people proposed at our meeting. I think the choice was already made and our input was a formality. Most of the people who live in this area are just good common people. But God blessed us with some good common sense to see what is right and wrong. The two proposed routes are just simply wrong! Please ask that route "C" the peoples choice be substituted.

Sincerely,
Denzel J. Anderson
Denzel J. Anderson
Concerned Citizen